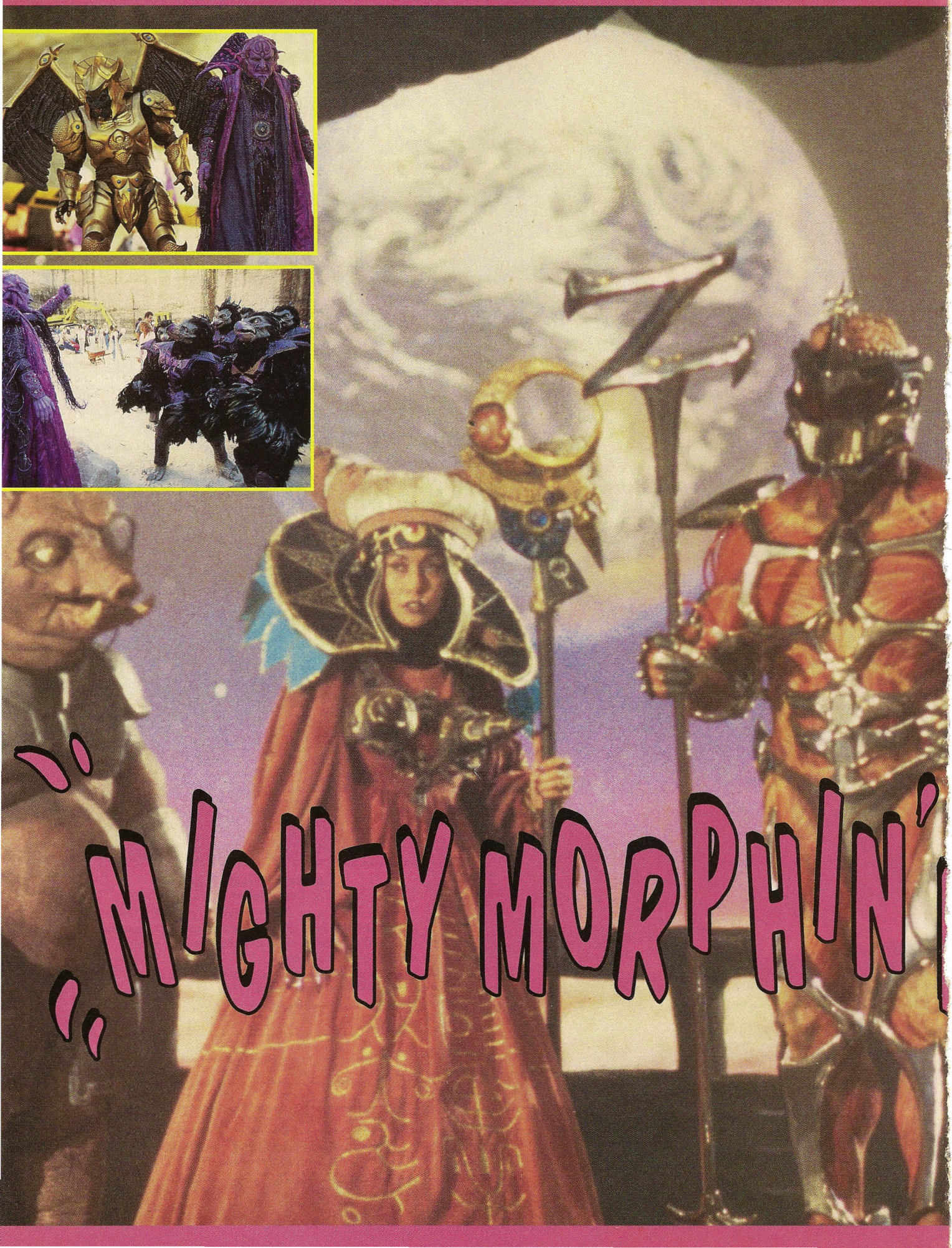
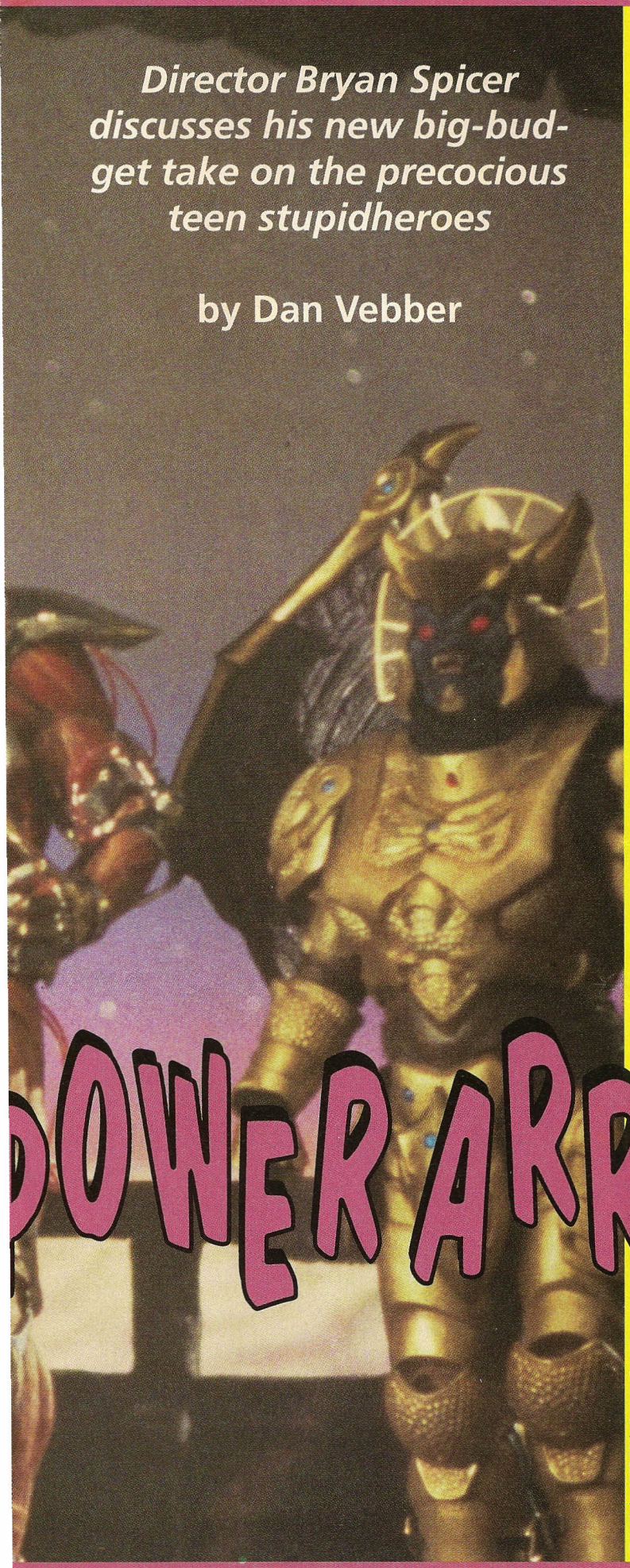

MIGHTY MORPHIN'

POWER ARRANGERS

Director Bryan Spicer discusses his new big-budget take on the precocious teen stupidheroes

by Dan Vebber



Need someone to direct your script about crafty teens with superhuman abilities? Look no further than Bryan Spicer. The director of this summer's ***Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers: The Movie*** (crafty teens with superhuman fighting skills save the world) cut his industry teeth directing episodes of ***Parker Lewis Can't Lose*** (crafty teens with superhuman coolness save the high school) and ***seaQuest*** (crafty teen with superhuman computer skills saves the sub). Of course, Spicer also directed the spunky, teen-devoid pilot episode of ***Brisco County Jr.***—but for the sake of this humorous little introduction, I'm going to just set that fact aside.

I had hoped to pick Spicer's brain about his trademark celebration of the teenage spirit, but considering that his busy postproduction schedule had already forced him to cancel several interviews, when I finally got him on the horn I decided to cut to the really important stuff instead.

If all six Power Rangers were ever to become possessed and forced to fight each other to the death, which one of them would end up prevailing?

I don't know about that. I think they've done that very thing in the TV show at least a few times. I think you just need to see the movie. It's very different.

Do you think the show has been successful in spite of, or because of, its lousy special effects?

I think it's been successful because of the heroic aspect of the kids in the show. That and the overall fantasy of the thing. Were you bothered when you were a kid by those things? *H.R. Pufnstuf, Land of the Lost*—did that stuff bother you?

No, I guess not.

No. When you're that age, it's all about the fantasy element. It's like playing video games. You go off into a fantasy land. And we significantly improved the movie over the television show. Our movie has more special effects than ***Waterworld*** or ***Jurassic Park***. We have over 600 optical animation effects. It's state-of-the-art. If you were to take ***Batman*** the TV series and compare it to the ***Batman*** movies, that's how much better this is. It's a huge, huge difference. The costuming, the creatures, the voices, sound effects, production values. But we've kept some familiar things for the kids. We've kept the main characters and sets, but made them bigger and better. The control room set in the movie version is about ten times the size of the one on the show, but it still conveys a lot of the same feeling. There's also a lot of heart in this movie, though. There are scenes that'll make you cry, make you laugh and make you want to hold on for your life.

If the Power Rangers went up against Superman, who would prevail?

[Dumbfounded at the stupidity of the question] The Power Rangers, of course. There's six of them, and they each have their Zords and their Mega-Zord.

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